

***Mimulus suksdorfii* Gray**
Suksdorf's monkey-flower
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

Status: State Sensitive
Rank: G4S2

General Description: A slender often much-branched annual 1-6 inches tall; stem leaves are usually numerous and opposite, oblong-elliptic to linear in shape and sessile on the stem. Flowers are yellow and faintly spotted, borne on slender stalks originating in leaf axils. The corolla is 1/8 to 3/8 inch, slightly greater than the calyx. The pedicels curve upward.

Identification Tips: This species is distinct in the following combination of characters: its annual habit, narrow leaves that are tapered to the sessile base and small yellow flowers that are only slightly bilabiate (two-lipped) and are borne on pedicels that tend to be widely spreading in fruit. *M. suksdorfii* is most likely to be confused with *M. breviflorus*, which has leaves that are usually narrowly elliptic or rhombic-elliptic and fruiting pedicels that are loosely ascending.

Phenology: The species begins flowering in mid-April in warmer microsites. Seedlings produce 1 or 2 flowers early in the spring and then the plant continues to grow and produce flowers as long as the habitat remains moist.

Range: The species ranges from California to Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arizona. In WA, it occurs in the Columbia Basin and Eastern Cascades physiographic provinces. The species has been collected and/or observed in Benton, Chelan, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima counties.

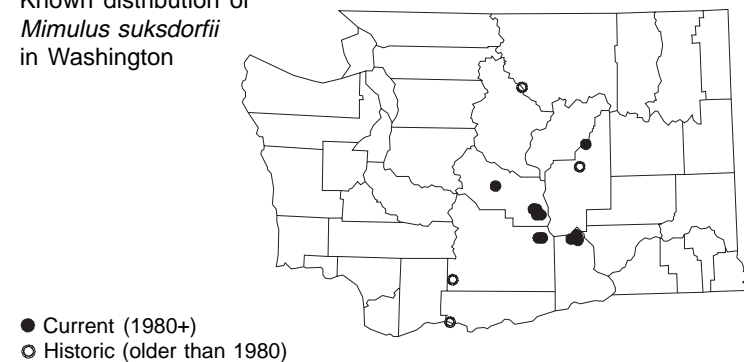
Habitat: The species occurs in open, moist, or rather dry places, from the valleys and foothills to moderate or occasionally rather high elevations in the mountains. In WA, *M. suksdorfii* occurs within the sagebrush steppe vegetation type of Franklin and Dyrness(1973) in moist pockets and drainages. Associated species include narrowleaf collomia (*Collomia linearis*), spring whitlowgrass (*Draba verna*), white cupseed (*Plectritis macrocera*), obscure cryptantha (*Cryptantha ambigua*), pink microsteris (*Microsteris gracilis*), bur buttercup (*Ranunculus testiculatus*), and common juniper (*Juniperus communis*).

Mimulus suksdorfii
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Known distribution of
Mimulus suksdorfii
in Washington



Mimulus suksdorfii

Suksdorf's monkey-flower



Katy Beck

No habitat photo available

Mimulus suksdorfii

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Ecology: The taxon often is found in microhabitats that have undergone local disturbance from small erosive events (i.e., slumps, slides, bioturbidity, and frost boils). Seedlings probably require mineral soil for establishment and individual plants are most vigorous where the substrate has been slightly disturbed.

State Status Comments: The species is peripheral in Washington. There are very few known extant occurrences.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory needed at periphery of its range.

Threats and Management Concerns: The habitat has been degraded by livestock, agriculture and military training activities. Effects of these activities on the integrity of the habitat include the introduction of exotic species, trampling, hydrologic alteration and increased erosion. These may bury the seedbank, affect biotic dispersal mechanisms and facilitate the introduction of exotic species.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 4: Ericaceae through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 510 pp.